Government has commenced a scheme of one-time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the States and UTs. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution also monitors, in consultation with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and the respective State Governments, the progress of disposal of cases by the Consumer Courts. The NCDRC has issued appropriate instructions to Consumer Courts for improving their performance in disposing the cases.

Expert of Manganese and Chrome Ores

3409. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister .of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Manganese and Chrome Ores being exported during last 3 years, year-wise and the amount of foreign exheange earned thereby till 31st July, 19%;

(b) the gap between demand and supply position in respect of these ores in the country; and

(c) whether any assessment was made if so, when alongwith the details of results?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available, export of Chrome Ore and Manganese Ore during the last 3 years and for the period from 1.4.96 to 31.7.96 is as under:—

(Quantity in Tonnes)
(Value in Rs. Thousand)

year	Chrome Ore		Manganese Ore	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94 (upto 31.7.96)	308267	735233	286450	380284
1994-95	490212	1027322	276598	345715
1995-96'	347705	1608413	238157	334144
1996-97*	120000	614700	220000	310000

*Provisional

(b) and (c) As per information available, there is no gap in overall demand and supply of these minerals.

Noa-Suppiy of Coal to Plants in Punjab

3410. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the different coal mines of the country during the last five years;.

(b) the specific reasons for not supplying the coal for the plants functioning in the State of Punjab; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total production of coal from different coal mines in the country during last five years was as under:

(million tonnes)

1991-92	229.28
1992-93	238.26
1993-94	246.04
1994-95	253.73
1995-96	270.13

(b) The total supplies of coal to all the consumers in Punjab, including that of the power sector during the year 1995-96 increased to 7.07 million tonnes (provisional) as against the despatches of 6.92 million tonnes in 1994-95. The supplies of coal to industries in Punjab was however constrained as a result of the higher priority given in supply of coal to power houses in Punjab and as a result of transport constraints.

(c) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requiements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Punjab by increasing production of coal.

Foreign Cigarette Company to Set up Factory in India

3411. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign cigarette company has been given permission to set up factories in India in the last four years;

(b) if so, the details of such permission; and

(c) the location, capacity and name of licensee?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In the last four years, one M/s. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International S.A., Switzerland have been granted a foreign collaboration approval and letter of intent on the 23rd and 26th April, 1993 respectively, for setting up of joint venture as a new undertaking at a permissible location in India for the manufacture of tobacco/cigarettes with foreign equity of 50% amounting to Rs. 23.00 crores both for domestic and export sales.

Exports are projected for a value of US *i* 74 million .over 5 years.

The approval is subject to the condition that they shall make use of local tobacco. Only 6% of the requirement of tobacco will be imported over a period of five years.

The outflow of foreign exchange on account of dividend payment will be balanced by export earnings.

(c) The unit i.e. M/s. Modi RJR Ltd. with an annual installed capacity of 5 billion Nos. of cigarettes shall be located at UPPAL Industrial area Distt. Hyderabad in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Modernisation of Kandla Free Trade *Zone*

3412. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a master plan for the modernisation of Kandla Free Trade Zone during current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the development works projected in Kandla Free Trade Zone;

(c) the specific amounts earmarked, project-wise; and

(d) the time schedule set for it's completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Foreign investment proposals involving direct investment

3413. DR D. VENKATESHWAR RAO. Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 64 foreign investment proposal involving direct investment have been approved by Government on 10th August, 1996;

(b) if so, the proposals that nave been cleared alongwith the foreign partners and their share of participation;